

Data Description for Davis Pond Aerial Survey

General:

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries estimates total fishing effort in the Barataria Basin by means of regular overflights in light aircraft, on a schedule of three surveys per month, weather permitting, on randomly scheduled days. Postponed flights are performed on the next suitable day.

Data Column Descriptors:

Date: mm/dd/yyyy.

Grid: LDWF records the location of every vessel sighted using the sampling grid shown in Map 2004-04-0019.pdf. The grid is the same one used by the US Geological Survey to define the seven-minute series topographic maps.

Type: LDWF classifies the boats into these classes: fishing, crab, hunting, oyster, butterfly, skimming, trawling, and other. “Butterfly”, “skimming”, and “trawling” are net configurations used for shrimping.

Activity: This refers not to the *type* of activity, but to the degree of activity. It is the number of boats of a given type observed in a given grid quadrant.

Comments: These report weather conditions and other notable events such as “Opening day of shrimp season” or “Flight cancelled over Grand Isle due to haze”.